

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A molded article comprising pulp and having an opening portion, a body portion, and a bottom portion, wherein said body portion has no seams, the outer and inner surfaces of said article have a center-line average roughness of less than or approximately equal to 50 μm , and said body portion has at least one cross-sectional diameter which is greater than a corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion or greater than another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion, said corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion and said another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion being located within the vertical plane which contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion, and
wherein a top edge of said opening portion has a center-line average roughness less than or equal to about 50 μm and a maximum height of about 500 μm .

Claim 2 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein all the cross-sectional diameters of said body portion are greater than corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion, each of said corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion being located within the vertical plane which contains each of said cross-sectional diameters of said body portion.

Claim 3 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has no seams over the portion from said body portion to said bottom portion.

Claim 4 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a screw thread on said opening portion.

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Claim 5 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a density of 0.4 to 2.0 g/cm³.

Claim 6 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a moisture permeability of 100 g/(m²·24 hr) or less.

Claim 7 (Previously Amended): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a corner whose thickness is greater than the thickness of other portions of said article.

Claim 8 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said opening portion has a thick-walled portion which is thicker than said body portion and said bottom portion, said thick-walled portion being formed on the area from the top edge of said opening portion to a prescribed depth continuously or discontinuously over the whole circumference of said opening portion.

Claim 9 (Previously Amended): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article further has a plastic layer on at least one of the outer and the inner surfaces thereof.

Claim 10 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a multilayered structure comprising a first pulp layer, a second pulp layer different from said first pulp layer in composition, and a mixed layer located between said first pulp layer and said second pulp layer, said mixed layer has a continuous gradient in composition in

which the composition changes from that of said first pulp layer to that of said second pulp layer.

Claim 11 (Original): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article is prepared from, as a paper stock, a slurry containing pulp fiber having an average fiber length of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of 100 to 600 cc, and such a frequency distribution of fiber length as comprises 20 to 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from 0.4 mm to 1.4 mm and 5 to 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than 1.4 mm and not longer than 3.0 mm.

Claim 12 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said article has a multilayered structure having an outermost layer and an innermost layer, wherein

a pulp slurry to be used for forming said outermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average fiber length of 0.2 to 1.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of 50 to 600 cc and a frequency distribution of fiber length as comprises 50 to 95%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from 0.4 mm to 1.4 mm, and

a pulp slurry to be used for forming said innermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average length of 0.8 to 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of 100 to 600 cc and a frequency distribution of fiber length as comprises 20 to 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from 0.4 mm to 1.4 mm and 5 to 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is more than 1.4 mm and not more than 3.0 mm.

Claim 13 (Previously Amended): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said molded article is obtained by heat drying under pressing a wet pulp deposited body onto the inner wall of a mold.

Claim 14 (Previously Amended): The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by applying a resin solution or a resin emulsion on said molded article.

Claim 15 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by laminating a plastic film on said molded article while said molded article is heated to a predetermined temperature, followed by gradual cooling.

Claim 16 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 9, wherein said plastic layer is formed by vacuum forming or pressure forming.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A molded article comprised of pulp and having:
an opening portion;
a body portion; and
a bottom portion, wherein:
said body portion has no seams,
the outer and inner surfaces of said article have a center-line average roughness of less than or approximately equal to 50 μ m,

said molded article is formed by inflating a pressing member by feeding a pressurizing fluid into said pressing member at a pressure between approximately 0.01 MPa and approximately 5.0 MPa, and

said body portion has at least one cross-sectional diameter that is greater than a corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said opening portion or greater than another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion, said corresponding cross-

sectional diameter of said opening portion and said another corresponding cross-sectional diameter of said body portion being located within the vertical plane that contains said cross-sectional diameter of said body portion, and

wherein a top edge of said opening portion has a center-line average roughness less than or equal to about 50 μm and a maximum height of about 500 μm .

Claim 18 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein all the cross-sectional diameters of said body portion are greater than corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion, each of said corresponding cross-sectional diameters of said opening portion being located within the vertical plane that contains each of said cross-sectional diameters of said body portion.

Claim 19 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has no seams over the portion from said body portion to said bottom portion.

Claim 20 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a screw thread on said opening portion.

Claim 21 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a density of approximately 0.4 g/cm^3 to approximately 2.0 g/cm^3 .

Claim 22 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a moisture permeability of approximately 100 g/(m²•24 hr) or less.

Claim 23 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a corner whose thickness is greater than a thickness of other portions of said molded article.

Claim 24 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said opening portion has a thick-walled portion which is thicker than said body portion and said bottom portion, said thick-walled portion being formed on the area from the top edge of said opening portion to a prescribed depth continuously or discontinuously over the whole circumference of said opening portion.

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Claim 25 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article further includes a plastic layer on at least one of the outer and the inner surfaces.

Claim 26 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by applying a resin solution or a resin emulsion on said molded article.

Claim 27 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is obtained by laminating a plastic film on said molded article while said molded article is heated to a predetermined temperature, followed by gradual cooling.

Claim 28 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 25, wherein said plastic layer is formed by vacuum forming or pressure forming.

Claim 29 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article has a multilayered structure comprising:

a first pulp layer;

a second pulp layer; and

a mixed layer located between said first pulp layer and said second pulp layer,

wherein said second pulp layer is different from said first pulp layer in composition,

and

wherein said mixed layer has a continuous gradient in composition in which a composition of said mixed layer changes from a composition of said first pulp layer to a composition of said second pulp layer.

*E. Smith
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Claim 30 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article is prepared from, as a paper stock, a slurry containing pulp fiber having an average fiber length of approximately 0.8 mm to approximately 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of approximately 100 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 20% to approximately 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm and approximately 5% to approximately 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than about 1.4 mm and not longer than approximately 3.0 mm.

Claim 31 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said article includes a multilayered structure having an outermost layer and an innermost layer, wherein:

a pulp slurry configured to be used for forming said outermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average fiber length of approximately 0.2 mm to approximately 1.0 mm, a

Canadian Standard Freeness of approximately 50 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 50% to approximately 95%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm, and

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a pulp slurry configured to be used for forming said innermost layer contains pulp fibers having an average length of approximately 0.8 mm to approximately 2.0 mm, a Canadian Standard Freeness of approximately 100 cc to 600 cc, and a frequency distribution of fiber length comprising approximately 20% to approximately 90%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length ranges from approximately 0.4 mm to approximately 1.4 mm and approximately 5% to approximately 50%, based on the total fiber, of fibers whose length is longer than about 1.4 mm and not longer than approximately 3.0 mm.

Claim 32 (Previously Added): The molded article according to claim 17, wherein said molded article is obtained by heat drying under pressing a wet pulp deposited body onto the inner wall of a mold.